Numb. 264

# The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

*Favete Linguis* —— Hor.

From *Thurſday December* 14. to *Saturday December* 16. 1710.

*From my own Apartment, December* 15.

BOCCALINI in his *Parnaſſus* indicts a Laconick Writer for ſpeaking that in Three Words which he might have ſaid in Two, and ſentences him for his Puniſhment to read over all the Works of *Guicciardin*. This *Guicciardin* is ſo very prolix and circumſtantial in his Writings, that I remember our Countryman Doctor *Donne*, ſpeaking of that majeſtick and conciſe Manner in which *Moſes* has deſcribed the Creation of the World, adds, That if ſuch an Author as *Guicciardin* were to have written on ſuch a Subject, the World it ſelf would not have been able to have contained the Books that gave the Hiſtory of its Creation.

I look upon a tedious Talker, or what is generally known by the Name of a Story-Teller, to be much more inſufferable than even a prolix Writer. An Author may be toſs'd out of your Hand and thrown aſide when he grows dull and tireſome; but ſuch Liberties are ſo far from being allow'd towards your Orators in common Converſation, that I have known a Challenge ſent a Perſon for going out of the Room abruptly, and leaving a Man of Honour in the Midſt of a Diſſertation. This Evil is at preſent ſo very common and epidemical, that there is ſcarce a Coffee-houſe in Town that has not ſome Speakers belonging to it, who utter their political Eſſays, and draw Parallels out of *Baker's Chronicle* to almoſt every Part of Her Majeſty's Reign. It was ſaid of Two ancient Authors who had very different Beauties in their Style, That if you took a Word from one of them, you only ſpoiled his Eloquence; but if you took a Word from the other, you ſpoiled his Senſe. I have often applied the firſt Part of this Criticiſm to ſeveral of theſe Coffee-houſe Speakers whom I have at preſent in my Thoughts; tho' the Character that is given to the laſt of thoſe Authors, is what I would recommend to the Imitation of my loving Countrymen; but it is not only publick Places of Reſort, but private Clubs and Converſations over a Bottle, that are infeſted with this loquacious Kind of Animal, eſpecially with that Species which I comprehend under the Name of a Story-Teller. I would earneſtly deſire theſe Gentlemen to conſider, that no Point of Wit or Mirth at the End of a Story can attone for the half Hour that has been loſt before they come at it. I would likewiſe lay it home to their ſerious Conſideration, Whether they think that every Man in the Company has not a Right to ſpeak as well as themſelves? And whether they do not think they are invading another Man's Property, when they engroſs the Time which ſhould be divided equally amongſt the Company to their own private Uſe?

What makes this Evil the much greater in Converſation is, that theſe Humdrum Companions ſeldom endeavour to wind up their Narrations into a Point of Mirth or Inſtruction, which might make ſome Amends for the Tediouſneſs of them, but think they have a Right to tell any Thing that has happened within their Memory. They look upon Matter of Fact to be a ſufficient Foundation for a Story, and give us a long Account of Things, not becauſe they are entertaining or ſurprizing, but becauſe they are true.

My ingenious Kinſman Mr. *Humphrey Wagſtaff* uſes to ſay, The Life of Man is too ſhort for a Story-Teller.

*Methuſalem* might be half an Hour in telling what a Clock it was; but as for us Poſtdiluvians, we ought to do every Thing in haſte, and in our Speeches as well as Actions remember that our Time is ſhort. A Man that talks for a quarter of an Hour together in Company, if I meet him frequently, takes up a great Part of my Span. A Quarter of an Hour may be reckoned the Eight and fortieth Part of a Day, a Day the Three hundred and ſixtieth Part of a Year, and a Year the Threeſcore and tenth Part of Life. By this moral Arithmetick, ſuppoſing a Man to be in the Talking World, One Third Part of the Day, whoever gives another a quarter of an Hour's Hearing, makes him a Sacrifice of more than the Four hundred thouſandth Part of his converſable Life.

I would eſtabliſh but one great general Rule to be obſerved in all Converſation, which is this, *That Men ſhould not talk to pleaſe themſelves, but thoſe that hear them.* This would make them conſider, whether

ther what they ſpeak be worth hearing, whether there be either Wit or Senſe in what they are about to ſay, and whether it be adapted to the Time when, the Place where, and the Perſon to whom, it is ſpoken.

For the utter Extirpation of theſe Orators and Story-Tellers, which I look upon as very great Peſts of Society, I have invented a Watch, which divides the Minute into Twelve Parts, after the ſame Manner that the ordinary Watches are divided into Hours, and will endeavour to get a Patent, which ſhall oblige every Club or Company to provide themſelves with one of theſe Watches, (that ſhall lie upon the Table, as an Hour-Glaſs is often placed near the Pulpit) to meaſure out the Length of a Diſcourſe.

I ſhall be willing to allow a Man One Round of my Watch, that is, a whole Minute to ſpeak in; but if he exceeds that Time, it ſhall be lawful for any of the Company to look upon the Watch, or to call him down to Order.

Provided however, That if any one can make it appear he is turned of Threeſcore, he may take Two, or, if he pleaſes, Three Rounds of the Watch, without giving Offence. Provided alſo, That this Rule be not conſtrued to extend to the Fair Sex, who ſhall ſtill be at Liberty to talk by the ordinary Watch that is now in Uſe. I would likewiſe earneſtly recommend this little Automaton, which may be eaſily carried in the Pocket without any Incumbrance, to all ſuch as are troubled with this Infirmity of Speech, that upon pulling out their Watches, they may have frequent Occaſion to conſider what they are doing, and by that Means cut the Tread of their Story ſhort, and hurry to a Concluſion. I ſhall only add, That this Watch, with a Paper of Directions how to uſe it, is ſold at *Charles Lillie*'s.

I am afraid, a *Tatler* will be thought a very improper Paper to cenſure this Humour of being talkative; but I would have my Readers know, that there is a great Difference between Tattle and Loquacity, as I ſhall ſhow at large in a following Lucubration, it being my Deſign to throw away a Candle upon that Subject, in order to explain the whole Art of Tatling in all its Branches and Subdiviſions.

*Advertiſements.*


AT the GREAT WHEAT-SHEAF painted upon a Copper Plate, next the Bell-Savage Inn upon Ludgate-Hill, is ſold all Sorts of rich Foreign Silks, with Gold and Silver Brocades. Likewiſe Plain and Flower'd Velvets for Gowns and Petricoats, and Coach Linings; with all Sorts of Silk Morning-Gowns, for Blank Lottery Tickets, at as high a Price as any Perſon ſhall give for them, and the aboveſaid Goods as cheap as for Specie.

AQua Stiptica Celeberrima; or, The moſt famous Stiptick Water, prepared and ſold by Sir William Read Kt. an approved Surgeon, and ſworn Servant in the Quality of Oculiſt and Operator of the Eyes in Ordinary to Her preſent Majeſty Qu. Anne, as he was to their late Majeſties K. William III, and K. Charles II. This Water has been approved of all over theſe Kingdoms, and moſt Parts of Europe, for ſtopping all Effuſions of Blood after Amputation of Legs, Arms, Cancerated Breaſts, or any Excreſcencies, as appear by the many Sir William has taken off with wonderful Succeſs, which have been atteſted by both our Univerſities at Home, and others Abroad, 'Tis the uſefulleſt Medicine any Surgeon can carry with him by Sea or Land. N.te, He couches Cataracts, takes off Wens and Cancers, and cures Wry Necks and Hair Lips, tho' never ſo deformed, before he expects Payment; that the Publick may be ſatisfied they are ſerved with Art and Honeſty.

THE Sale of the Rich BED and HANGINGS, which was ſeen at Weſtminſter and Drapers Hall, will be drawn the 10th of January next. So all Perſons that deſign to become Adventurers, are deſired to take out their Tickets ſpeedily, which are to be had at One Guinea apiece, with new Propoſals, at St. James's Coffee-houſe; Mr. Lillie's, Perfumer, the Corner of Beauford-Buildings, Mrs. Betly's, a Tire-Woman, in Bow-ſtreet, Covent-Garden; Mr. Fleming's, Goldſmith, againſt St. Dunſtan's Church; Mr. Nathaniel Carpenter's, Merchant, in St. Clement's-lane, Lombard-ſtreet, (who ſtands Security for the fair Performance) and at the other Places mentioned in the Propoſals. Part of the Goods may be ſeen at the ſaid Mr. Carpenter's and Mrs. Betly's.

AT Mrs. Mottley's India-Houſe at the Two Green Canifters on the Pavement in St. Martin's-lane near Charing-croſs, all Sorts of Indian Goods, Laquer'd Ware, China, Fans, Screens, Pictures, &c. with Hollands, Muſlins, Cambricks, fine embroider'd and plain ſhort Aprons, and divers other Things, to be diſpoſed of for Blank Lottery Tickets, at as high a Price as any Perſon ſhall give for 'em, and the Goods as cheap as for Specie.

THE Silk Gowns continue ſtill to be ſold, with a much larger Parcel than at firſt, and have had the Approbation of ſeveral Perſons of Quality, at Mrs. Attaway's, Cap-maker and Milliner, in Devereux-Court, in the Paſſage from the Temple to Eſſex-Buildings. And to encourage all Gentlemen and others that want Gowns to come to her, there will be a Silk Saſh given gratis with every Gown till Chriſtmas next, at the Price writ on each Gown.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Wedneſday the 20th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 5 in the Afternoon, (only one Cask in a Lot) 57 Pipes and 2 Hhds. of excellent Canary Wines, neat, the laſt Part of (compleating) the Cargo of the St. Joſeph, lately landed at Smart's-Key, now in a Vault in Dog-Tavern-yard over-againſt Billingſgate in Thames-ſtreet, and 10 Pipes of new excellent Canty Florence Wine, freſh, deep, bright, and of a curious Flavour, neat, an entire Parcel, landed Yeſterday. Note, The ſaid Florence Wines are in the aboveſaid Vault. The aforeſaid Canary and Florence Wines are to be ſeen next Monday and Tueſday from 8 to 1, and from 2 till 5, and all Wedneſday till the Time of Sale. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane, between Tower-ſtreet and Crouched-Fryars.

MRs. Symmons's Sale of Goods, which were to be viewed in Henrietta-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, are now at the Duke of Marlborough's-Head in Fleetſtreet, where it will (without fail) be drawn on Thurſday next the 21ſt Inſtant, ſhe being oblig'd to defer it till that Time for the diſpoſing of a very few Tickets, which are to be had at Mr. Lillie's the Corner of Beaufort Buildings, at the Duke of Marlborough's-Head aforeſaid, and all the Places mentioned in the Propoſals.

*** New Muſick juſt publiſh'd, The moſt celebrated Airs and Duets in the laſt new Opera's call'd Hydaſpes and Almahide; curiouſly fitted and contriv'd for Two Flutes and a Baſs, with their Simphonies; introduc'd in a compleat Manner, in Two Collections. The whole fairly engraven. Printed for J. Walſh, Servant in Ordinary to Her Majeſty; at the Harp and Hautboy in Katharine ſtreet in the Strand, and J. Hare at the Viol and Flute in Cornhil near the Royal Exchange.

AIR Pumps, both ſingle and double Barrels, with Apparatus for the many Experiments, demonſtrating the ſeveral Properties of the Air; Machines for condenſing Air; ſmall Air Pumps, with Glaſſes for the new and moſt approved Way of Cupping; Scarrificators, one of which at once makes 10, another 13, another 16, effectual Inciſions; Syphons, and Blow-pipes with Valves for Anatomical Injections; Hydroſtatical Ballances for finding the ſpecifick Gravities of Liquids and Solids, with Eaſe and Accuracy: All which, according to their lateſt Improvements, with Directions how to uſe and order them on all Occaſions, are ſold only in Hind-court again Water-lane, Fleetſtreet, by F. Hauksbee, Author of them.

*** This Day are publiſh'd, from the Office at the Wheat-Sheaf over-againſt Tom's Coffee-houſe in Ruſſel-ſtreet, Covent-garden, Propoſals for the Benefit of the Clergy, and Widows of Clergy-men, by a joint Contribution; whereby a Clergy-man, by a Contribution of 10s. (as in the Propoſals is at large expreſs'd) may be entitled to the Sum of 750l. on his being inſtituted and inducted into a Rectory or Vicaridge in England or Ireland, or ſent as a Miſſionary by the Corporation of the Society for propagating the Goſpel in Forcign Parts; or by a Contribution of 5s. may be entitled to the Sum of 375 l. or by a Contribution of 2s. 6d. to the Sum of 187 l. 10s. in the Caſes aforeſaid, with other Advantages for the Widows and Children of the Contributors. Propoſals at large may be had at the Office abovementioned.

INſurance on Births: Three new Subſcriptions was open'd on Tueſay laſt the 12th Inſtant, one for 500 l. paying 5s. for a Policy and Stamps, and 5s. towards each Claim: The ſecond for 250 l. paying 2s. 6d. for a Policy and Stamps, and 2s. 6d. towards each Claim. The third for 100 l. paying 2s. for Policy and Stamps, and 12. towards each Claim that ſhall be made on theſe Societies. Perſons may alſo inſure on Marriages in Three Subſcriptions of the like Nature, where Attendance is given at their Office at the White-Lyon in Kingſtreet near Guildhall, on Mondays, Tueſdays, Wedneſdays, Thurſdays and Fridays, from 8 till 12, and from 2 till 6 at Night.

AT the Flower-de-Luce Inſurance-Office near Lyon's Inn, the Back-Side of St. Clement's in the Strand, all Perſons that have inſured in other or this Office upon Marriage in three Months or more, may inſure the ſame Perſons Marriage in two Months; for which Purpoſe Two Books were open'd on the 12th Inſtant, wherein the 1ſt 150 are allowed to marry in 2 Kalendar Months after Entrance, the 2d 150 in 3 Kalendar Months, the 3d 150 in 4 Kalendar Months, and ſo to continue, by a Weekly Dividend of 1000 l. if full. Thoſe that enter in the 5 s. Policy Book to pay 10s. Weekly after the 12th of Febr. next; and thoſe in the 2s. 6d. Policy Book 5s. Weekly till their own Claim is made. There is at the ſame Place Two Books that were open'd the 30th of Nov. laſt for Inſurance on Marriage by Way of Dividend, which meets with great Encouragement, becauſe every one knows his certain Charge. Alſo Two more, one for inſuring on the Birth of a Child that lives 24 Hours 500 l. the other 250 l. if full; if not, a proportionable Sum by Way of Claims. Propoſals may be had at large for all at the Office.



Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertiſements are taken in.